

Two Facts, One Myth: Answer Key

In each set of three statements, two statements are true, and one statement is a myth. Circle the myth in each set of statements.

Sexual abuse only happens to females. **MYTH**

Sexual abuse can happen to any gender.

One in six males experiences sexual abuse.

Explanation:



Sexual abuse can happen to any gender. People of all genders suffer harm from sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse can happen without physical contact or touching.

Forcing someone to look at a naked person, picture, or video is sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse always involves physical contact. **MYTH**

Explanation:



There are two types of sexual abuse: contact and non-contact.

Children and youth can be sexually abused by someone touching or making physical contact with the sexual parts of their bodies. The sexual parts of the body are the breasts, genital areas (penis and vagina), anus, and mouth.

Sexual abuse can also happen without touching or contact. Sexual abuse can also happen online.

Examples of non-contact sexual abuse include:

- being shown sexual videos or pictures;
- being forced to pose for sexual pictures;
- being forced to look at sexual parts of the body;
- being forced to watch sexual acts; or
- being forced to listen to sexual talk or to comments about one's body.

Two Facts, One Myth: Answer Key

Sexual offenders are often people we know, trust, and love.

It is easy to tell who a sexual offender is.

MYTH

“Grooming” is a process that sexual offenders use to gain the trust of a child to sexually abuse them.

Explanation:



Anyone can be a sexual offender. They can be part of a family, and they can be well-liked and important members of the community. Most sexual offenders are people we know and trust.

It is difficult to know who a sexual offender is because they are very manipulative, and they pressure children and youth into not telling and into keeping the sexual abuse a secret.

Survivors of sexual abuse know the abuse is never their fault.

MYTH

Guilt and shame are common reactions to sexual abuse.

Sexual offenders often say things to place blame on the child or youth for the sexual abuse.

Explanation:



Being sexually abused is often a frightening and confusing experience. Children and youth can feel guilt and shame over what happened, and they often blame themselves.

Sexual offenders make children and youth feel like the abuse was their fault in order to take the blame away from themselves. They tell children and youth that no one will believe them, that they were asking for the abuse, that it is normal behaviour, and that it must be kept a secret.



NO ONE DESERVES SEXUAL ABUSE, and it is NEVER the child's or youth's fault.

Two Facts, One Myth: Answer Key

Children and youth usually do not tell anyone when they experience sexual abuse.

Children and youth often lie and make false allegations about sexual abuse.

MYTH

Children and youth are often not believed when they disclose sexual abuse.

Explanation:



Children and youth who have been sexually abused are often afraid of what might happen when they tell someone about their sexual abuse. They feel overwhelmed with fear, guilt, and confusion over what has happened to them. They often keep the sexual abuse a secret.

Sometimes after they tell, adults get upset with them, blame them for the abuse, or do not believe them. Children and youth may also take back a report of abuse if they think their family will break up because of them. They may find it easier to live with the lie than with everything falling apart around them. Because children and youth occasionally take back reports of sexual abuse, people can end up thinking that the allegations are false. False allegations are very rare, and children and youth are usually telling the truth and need help. Adults need to listen and believe children and youth who report sexual abuse.